



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

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NEWS RELEASE

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August 18, 2006**

Vesicular Stomatitis has been confirmed in a horse this week in Natrona County, Wyoming.

Effective immediately, all livestock entering South Dakota from affected states must be accompanied by a health certificate stating the animal(s) have not originated from a premises or area under quarantine for Vesicular Stomatitis, and none are known exposed to Vesicular Stomatitis. The health certificate must be issued within 72 hours of shipment.

Dr. Holland urges horse owners to consider altering their schedules if plans include traveling to areas affected by the disease.

Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) is a sporadic, re-emerging disease characterized by blister-like lesions on the tongue, lips, and soft skin areas of hooved animals. VS has an incubation period of two to eight days. The infected animal develops blisters that swell and burst leaving painful sores.

Transmission of VS is not fully understood; however, it is known that the disease may be spread from animal to animal or by biting insects. Infected animals can also spread the virus when their saliva or the fluid from ruptured blisters contaminates feed, water or hay shared with the herd. VS infections will usually run their course in two to three weeks, at which time animals will begin healing. VS outbreaks usually, but not always, end with the seasonal freeze.

Vesicular Stomatitis cases lead to export restrictions on susceptible animals both interstate and internationally. Wyoming is the first state affected by VS in 2006. Vesicular Stomatitis is not a disease of humans although there have been occasional reports of mild flu-like signs by individuals working closely with animals affected.

Vesicular Stomatitis is a reportable and quarantinable disease in South Dakota. Contact your veterinarian if there is a suspicion of Vesicular Stomatitis in your livestock.

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